

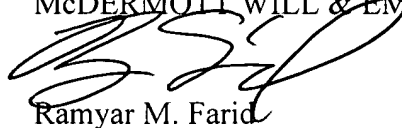
REMARKS

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-7, 9, 11-19 and 21-35 is acknowledged and appreciated. Solely in order to expedite prosecution, rejected claims 1, 2, 8, 10 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice/disclaimer to the subject matter embodied thereby, and allowable claims 3, 9, 11-14, 21, 22 and 25 have been rewritten into independent form, so as to leave only allowed claims pending. Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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